

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112;
 - (b) a variant of a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of the amino acid residues from the amino acid sequence of said mature form;
 - (c) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112; and
 - (d) a variant of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence.
2. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of a naturally-occurring allelic variant of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72,

74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112.

3. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said allelic variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is the translation of a nucleic acid sequence differing by a single nucleotide from a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109 and 111.
4. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of said variant comprises a conservative amino acid substitution.
5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112;
 - (b) a variant of a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of the amino acid residues from the amino acid sequence of said mature form;
 - (c) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112;
 - (d) a variant of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40,

42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence;

(e) a nucleic acid fragment encoding at least a portion of a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112, or a variant of said polypeptide, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence; and

(f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of a naturally-occurring allelic nucleic acid variant.

7. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of a naturally-occurring polypeptide variant.

8. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule differs by a single nucleotide from a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109 and 111.

9. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(a) a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47,

49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109 and 111;

(b) a nucleotide sequence differing by one or more nucleotides from a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109 and 111, provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides differ from said nucleotide sequence;

(c) a nucleic acid fragment of (a); and

(d) a nucleic acid fragment of (b).

10. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleotide sequence chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109 and 111, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

11. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

(a) a first nucleotide sequence comprising a coding sequence differing by one or more nucleotide sequences from a coding sequence encoding said amino acid sequence, provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides in the coding sequence in said first nucleotide sequence differ from said coding sequence;

(b) an isolated second polynucleotide that is a complement of the first polynucleotide; and

(c) a nucleic acid fragment of (a) or (b).

12. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 11.

13. The vector of claim 12, further comprising a promoter operably-linked to said nucleic acid molecule.

14. A cell comprising the vector of claim 12.

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15. An antibody that immunospecifically-binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.
16. The antibody of claim 15, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
17. The antibody of claim 15, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.
18. A method for determining the presence or amount of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a sample, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing the sample;
 - (b) contacting the sample with an antibody that binds immunospecifically to the polypeptide; and
 - (c) determining the presence or amount of antibody bound to said polypeptide, thereby determining the presence or amount of polypeptide in said sample.
19. A method for determining the presence or amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 in a sample, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing the sample;
 - (b) contacting the sample with a probe that binds to said nucleic acid molecule; and
 - (c) determining the presence or amount of the probe bound to said nucleic acid molecule, thereby determining the presence or amount of the nucleic acid molecule in said sample.

and

20. A method of identifying an agent that binds to a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
 - (a) contacting said polypeptide with said agent; and
 - (b) determining whether said agent binds to said polypeptide.
21. A method for identifying an agent that modulates the expression or activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a cell expressing said polypeptide;
 - (b) contacting the cell with said agent; and
 - (c) determining whether the agent modulates expression or activity of said polypeptide, whereby an alteration in expression or activity of said peptide indicates said agent modulates expression or activity of said polypeptide.

22. A method for modulating the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising contacting a cell sample expressing the polypeptide of said claim with a compound that binds to said polypeptide in an amount sufficient to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.
23. A method of treating or preventing a NOVX-associated disorder, said method comprising administering to a subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired the polypeptide of claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat or prevent said NOVX-associated disorder in said subject.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein said subject is a human.
25. A method of treating or preventing a NOVX-associated disorder, said method comprising administering to a subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired the nucleic acid of claim 5 in an amount sufficient to treat or prevent said NOVX-associated disorder in said subject.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein said subject is a human.
27. A method of treating or preventing a NOVX-associated disorder, said method comprising administering to a subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired the antibody of claim 15 in an amount sufficient to treat or prevent said NOVX-associated disorder in said subject.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the subject is a human.
29. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.
30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.
31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 15 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.
32. A kit comprising in one or more containers, the pharmaceutical composition of claim 29

33. A kit comprising in one or more containers, the pharmaceutical composition of claim 30.
34. A kit comprising in one or more containers, the pharmaceutical composition of claim 31.
35. The use of a therapeutic in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a syndrome associated with a human disease, the disease selected from a NOVX-associated disorder, wherein said therapeutic is selected from the group consisting of a NOVX polypeptide, a NOVX nucleic acid, and a NOVX antibody.
36. A method for screening for a modulator of activity or of latency or predisposition to a NOVX-associated disorder, said method comprising:
 - (a) administering a test compound to a test animal at increased risk for a NOVX-associated disorder, wherein said test animal recombinantly expresses the polypeptide of claim 1;
 - (b) measuring the activity of said polypeptide in said test animal after administering the compound of step (a);
 - (c) comparing the activity of said protein in said test animal with the activity of said polypeptide in a control animal not administered said polypeptide, wherein a change in the activity of said polypeptide in said test animal relative to said control animal indicates the test compound is a modulator of latency or predisposition to a NOVX-associated disorder.
37. The method of claim 36, wherein said test animal is a recombinant test animal that expresses a test protein transgene or expresses said transgene under the control of a promoter at an increased level relative to a wild-type test animal, and wherein said promoter is not the native gene promoter of said transgene.
38. A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease associated with altered levels of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a first mammalian subject, the method comprising:

(a) measuring the level of expression of the polypeptide in a sample from the first mammalian subject; and

(b) comparing the amount of said polypeptide in the sample of step (a) to the amount of the polypeptide present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have, or not to be predisposed to, said disease,

wherein an alteration in the expression level of the polypeptide in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to said disease.

39. A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease associated with altered levels of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 in a first mammalian subject, the method comprising:

(a) measuring the amount of the nucleic acid in a sample from the first mammalian subject; and

(b) comparing the amount of said nucleic acid in the sample of step (a) to the amount of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have or not be predisposed to, the disease; wherein an alteration in the level of the nucleic acid in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to the disease.

40. A method of treating a pathological state in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal a polypeptide in an amount that is sufficient to alleviate the pathological state, wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of at least one of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, and 112, or a biologically active fragment thereof.

41. A method of treating a pathological state in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal the antibody of claim 15 in an amount sufficient to alleviate the pathological state.

42. A method of treating a disorder in a subject, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which decreases IL-8 expression or activity in said subject, thereby treating said disorder in said subject.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein said disorder is an inflammatory disorder.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein said disorder is cancer.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein said disorder is a demyelination disease.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein the compound is a IL-8 antibody, a IL-8 antisense nucleic, or a nucleic acid that decreases expression of a nucleic acid that encodes a IL-8 polypeptide.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein the subject is a rodent or human.

48. The method of claim 42, wherein the compound is administered to the subject in association with a transfection agent.

49. The method of claim 42, wherein the administering is by a route selected from the group consisting of intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, nasal, intravenous, oral and transdermal delivery.

50. The method of claim 42, wherein the administering is intravenous.

51. A method of identifying a ligand for the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) receptor, the method comprising;

- (a) providing a test cell population comprising a cell capable of expressing angiopoietin related protein (ARP)
- (b) contacting the test cell population with a test agent;
- (c) measuring expression of ARP in the test cell population;
- (d) comparing the expression of ARP test cell population to the expression of ARP in a reference cell population which has not been exposed to the test agent; and
- (e) identifying a difference in expression levels of the ARP, if present, in the test cell population and reference cell population,
wherein a increase in ARP expression in the test cell population as compared to the reference cell population indicates that the test agent is a ligand for the PPAR γ receptor.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the test cell population is provided *in vitro*.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein the test cell population is provided *ex vivo* from a mammalian subject.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein the test cell is provided *in vivo* in a mammalian subject.

55. The method of claim 51, wherein the test cell population is derived from a human or rodent subject.

56. The method of claim 51, wherein the test cell includes a adipocyte.

57. A PPAR γ receptor ligand identified according to the method of claim 51.

58. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the PPAR γ receptor ligand of claim 57.

59. A method of identifying a therapeutic agent, the method comprising;

- (a) providing a test cell population comprising a cell capable of expressing ARP
- (b) contacting the test cell population with a test agent;
- (c) measuring expression of ARP in the test cell population;
- (d) comparing the expression of the ARP in the test cell population to the expression of ARP in a reference cell population comprising at least one cell whose disease status is known; and
- (e) identifying a difference in expression levels of ARP, if present, in the test cell population and reference cell population, thereby identifying a therapeutic agent.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein the test cell population is provided *in vitro*.

61. The method of claim 59, wherein the test cell population is provided *ex vivo* from a mammalian subject.

62. The method of claim 59, wherein the test cell population is provided *in vivo* in a mammalian subject.

63. The method of claim 59, wherein the test cell population is derived from a human or rodent subject.

64. The method of claim 59, wherein the test cell population includes a kidney cell.

65. The method of claim 59, wherein the expression of the nucleic acid sequences in the test cell population is decreased as compared to the reference cell population.

66. The method of claim 59, wherein the expression of the nucleic acid sequences in the test cell population is increased as compared to the reference cell population.

67. A method of diagnosing or determining the susceptibility to clear cell renal carcinoma in a subject, the method comprising;

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(a) providing from the subject a test cell population comprising cells capable of expressing of ARP;

(b) measuring expression of ARP in the test cell population; and

(c) comparing the expression of ARP in the test cell population to the expression of ARP in a reference cell population comprising at least one cell from a subject not suffering from clear cell renal carcinoma; and

(d) identifying a difference in expression levels of ARP, if present, in the test cell population and reference cell population, wherein an increase of expression of ARP in the test cell population compared to the reference cell population indicated that the subject is suffering from or susceptible to clear cell renal carcinoma.

68. A method of treating a renal disorder in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject in need thereof an agent that decreases the expression or the activity ARP

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the renal disorder is kidney cancer, polycystic kidney disease, renal dysplasia, or kidney degenerative disease.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein the kidney cancer is renal cell carcinoma or wilms tumor.

71. The method of claim 69, wherein the kidney degenerative disease is chronic kidney failure.

72. A method of assessing the efficacy of a treatment of a kidney disorder in a subject, the method comprising:

- (a) providing from the subject a test cell population comprising cells capable of expressing ARP;
- (b) detecting expression ARP in the test cell population;
- (c) comparing the expression ARP in the test cell population to the expression of ARP in a reference cell population comprising at least one cell from a subject not suffering from the kidney disorder; and

(e) identifying a difference in expression levels of ARP, if present, in the test cell population and reference cell population,

wherein a similarity in ARP expression in the test cell population and the reference population indicate the treatment is efficacious.

73. A method of diagnosing or determining the susceptibility a inflammatory disorder in a subject, the method comprising:

(a) providing from the subject a test cell population comprising cells capable of expressing of ARP;

(b) measuring expression of ARP in the test cell population; and

(c) comparing the expression of ARP in the test cell population to the expression of ARP in a reference cell population comprising at least one cell from a subject not suffering from the inflammatory disorder; and

(d) identifying a difference in expression levels of ARP, if present, in the test cell population and reference cell population,

wherein an increase of expression of ARP in the test cell population compared to the reference cell population indicated that the subject is suffering from or susceptible to the inflammatory disorder.

74. A method of treating a inflammatory disorder in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject in need thereof an agent that decreases the expression or the activity ARP

75. The method of claim 74, wherein the inflammatory disorder is a disorder of the pulmonary system

76. The method of claim 74, wherein the inflammatory disorder is asthma, allergy, emphysema, arthritis or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

77. A method of assessing the efficacy of a treatment of a inflammatory disorder in a subject, the method comprising:

- (a) providing from the subject a test cell population comprising cells capable of expressing ARP;
- (b) detecting expression ARP in the test cell population;
- (c) comparing the expression ARP in the test cell population to the expression of ARP in a reference cell population comprising at least one cell from a subject not suffering from the inflammatory disorder; and
- (e) identifying a difference in expression levels of ARP, if present, in the test cell population and reference cell population,

wherein a similarity in ARP expression in the test cell population and the reference population indicate the treatment is efficacious.